

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1937

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJECT: KARDELJ AND DOLANC ON YUGOSLAVIA

1. IN DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK BOTH KARDELJ AND DOLANC TOOK PAINS TO ASSURE ME OF THEIR CONTINUING DISTRUST OF THE SOVIETS AND DETERMINATION TO FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT PATH.

2. IN A DISCUSSION OF WHY THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BELITTLE THE YUGOSLAV ROLE IN WORLD WAR II, DOLANC SAID BLUNTLY THAT "FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT ONE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE PAST: THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE." THIS, DOLANC ADDED, NEEDS NO FURTHER ELABORATION.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA, DOLANC CHARACTERIZED THE CHANGE IN SOVIET ATTITUDE AS "ONLY ONE OF DEGREE", AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH MY ASSERTION THAT SOVIET CHANGES ARE TACTICAL AND NOT STRATEGIC, WITH LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVES UNCHANGED.

4. TALKING ABOUT THE TROUBLE THEY HAD HAD OF LATE WITH "INFORMBUREAUISTS", KARDELJ SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE. "NOT FROM BREZHNEV PERSONALLY", HE SAID, BUT FROM SOME OTHERS IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

5. KARDELJ STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT THESE FORCES INSIDE YUGOSLAVIA ARE INSIGNIFICANT, AND THAT

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YUGOSLAVIA WILL MOVE NEITHER TO THE EAST NOR THE WEST, BUT WILL

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ITS OWN INDEPENDENT PATH NO MATTER WHAT THE PRESSURES OR WHAT IS SPECULATED ABOUT HER FROM OUTSIDE.

6. IT IS WORTH NOTING HERE THAT KARDELJ SEEMED IN GOOD HEALTH AND TOLD ME THAT WHILE HIS SURGERY HAD BEEN SERIOUS, HE IS NOW COMPLETELY RECOVERED AND HAS RETURNED TO FULL ACTIVITY.
TOON

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